



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **LICENSES ON THE LINE FOR THOUSANDS OF TENNESSEANS** *CHILD SUPPORT OFFICIALS CRACK DOWN ON NON-PAYING PARENTS*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— More than 10,000 parents who are not paying their child support face losing their driver's, professional and recreational licenses if they don't pay up soon. Doctors, nurses, teachers and salesmen are all included on the list. Certified letters are in the mail, warning delinquent parents that if they have more than \$500 in outstanding child support payments and haven't made a payment in more than 90 days, they could lose their licenses.

"The License Revocation program has proven to be an effective tool for the collection of overdue child support payments," said Human Services Commissioner Gina Lodge. "The purpose of this program is not to punish parents, but to secure the court-ordered and much needed support for the children."

State law allows the Tennessee Department of Human Services, which administers the Child Support Program, to revoke the licenses of parents who fail to pay their child support. The notices inform parents that they can prevent revocation if they contact their local child support office and set up payment plans, or repay the past due amount.

Most of the letters are being sent to parents in Shelby, Davidson, Hamilton and Knox Counties. More than 9,300 driver's licenses issued by the Department of Safety are at risk. There are over 1,000 hunting and fishing licenses on the line, and 324 professional licenses issued by the Departments of Commerce and Insurance, Health and Education are in jeopardy.

The Department collected \$10 million in child support payments and revoked 7,000 licenses through the program last year. Total child support collections for state fiscal year 2004 were \$412 million. There are currently 219,000 child support cases in Tennessee.

In addition to the license revocation program, the Child Support division and its partners use enforcement tools such as administrative wage assignment, liens and passport denial to collect support.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the DHS website at:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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